



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

<b>CAT Report 1388</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Colchester
<b>52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> 180926
	<b>CHER Event no:</b> ECC4307
	<b>Colchester Museum accession code:</b> COLEM:2019.14
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-343579
<b>Address:</b> 52 Oaklands Avenue Colchester Essex CO3 9ES	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 96337 24065 (centre)
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Dates of visit:</b> 22nd February 2019

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for new entrance porch, car port and garage/workshop extension.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within close proximity to Romano-British dykes. A palisaded earthwork was projected to cross the garden of the property.

**% monitored:** The foundation trenches had all been excavated and prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring. Edges and bases of the trenches were cleaned to look for evidence of features in section and upcast spoil was checked for any artefacts.

**Results:** A CAT archaeologist inspected the following groundworks:

- 6m of foundation trenching for the new porch extension, 0.5m wide and 0.95m deep;
- 14m of foundation trenching for the garage extension, 0.5m wide and 0.73m deep;
- a soakaway, 2.5m wide, 1.3m long and 1.1m deep;
- 20.28m of foundation trenching for the new storage unit, 0.5m wide and 0.45m deep.

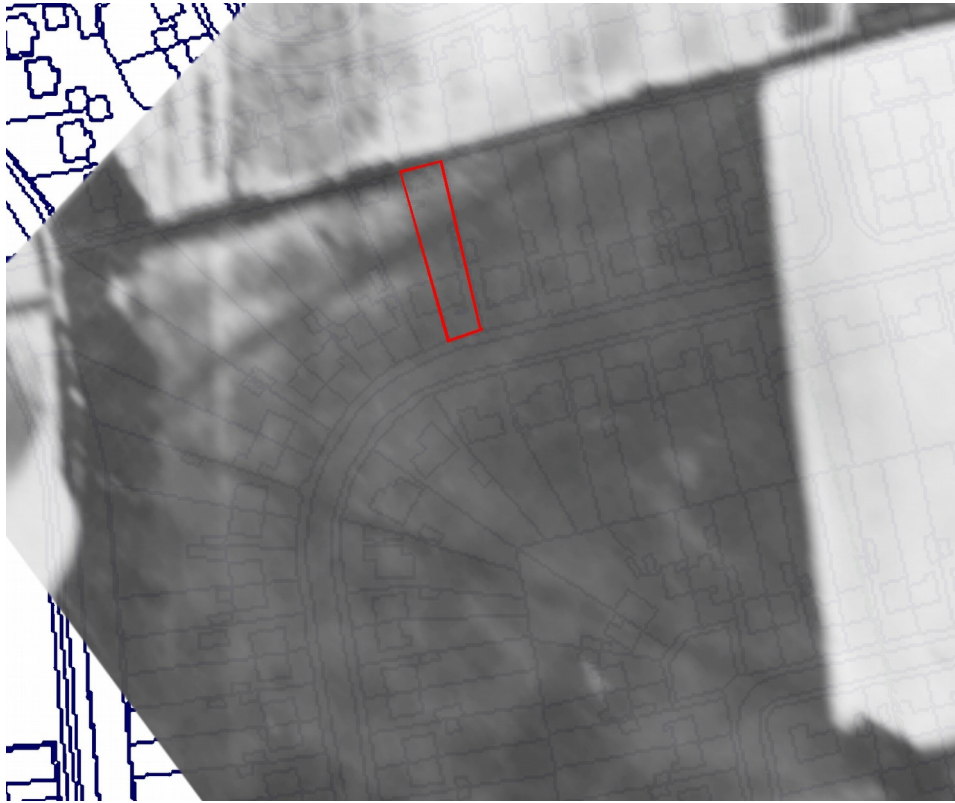


**Photograph 1** Storage unit foundations, looking northwest

Groundworks penetrated modern topsoil (L1, c 0.19-0.36m soft, mid grey-brown silty loam), and subsoil (L2, c 0.29-0.37m firm, dry, light to mid brown sandy silt) into natural (L3, dry, firm mid orange sands and gravels, encountered at a depth of c 0.51-0.66m below current ground level). See Fig 3 for representative sections.

No significant archaeological features were encountered, and there were no finds. Either the

foundations for the storage unit are too shallow to reach the palisade, or the line of the projected cropmark has been plotted slightly too far north. A photograph taken by the RAF in the 1940's (within CAT's collection) shows this cropmark looking very slightly further to the south. This would mean the line of the palisade falls between the end of the garage extension and the soakaway. However, this photograph was not taken from directly above and has not been rectified.



**Photograph 2** RAF 1940's photograph showing the 'V' shaped cropmark of the palisade earthwork and the Laver ditch in relation to the site (in red)

**Recorded by:** Emma Holloway

**Date:** 7th March 2019



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

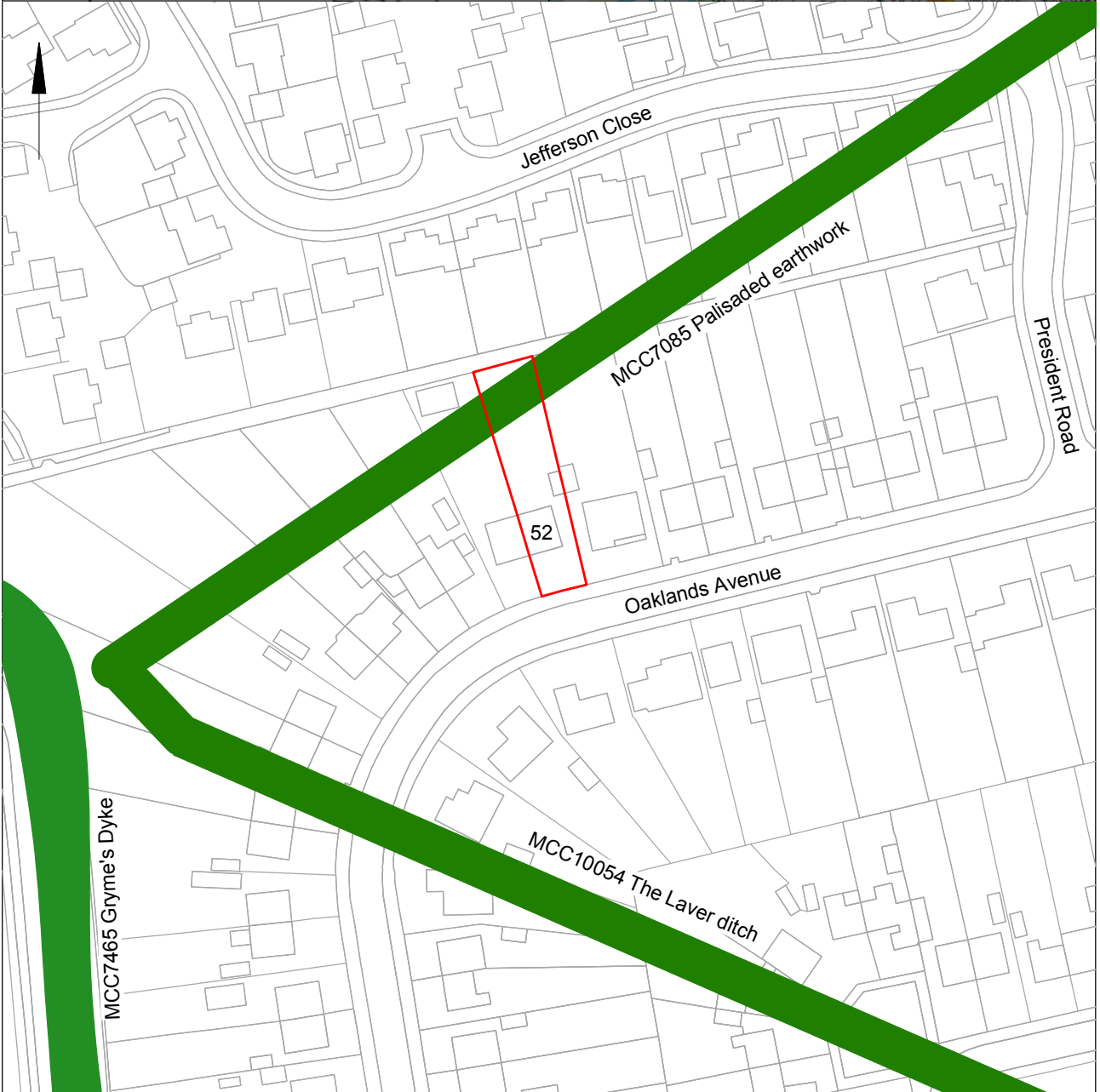
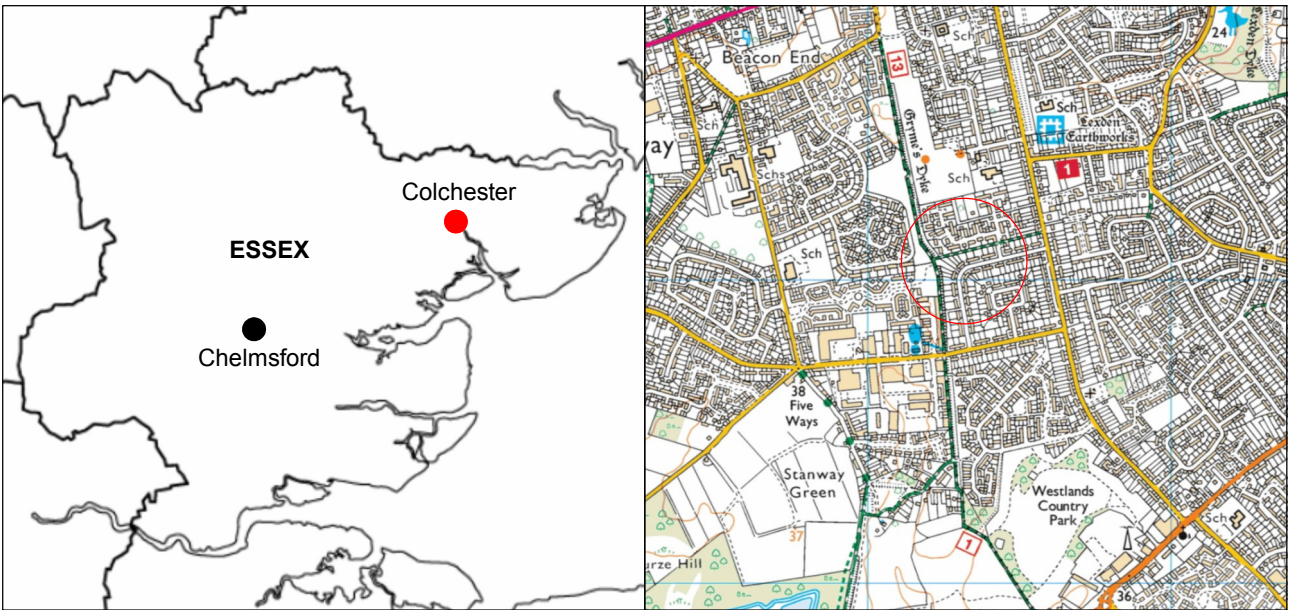
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*checked by:* Philip Crummy

*date:* 07.03.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.





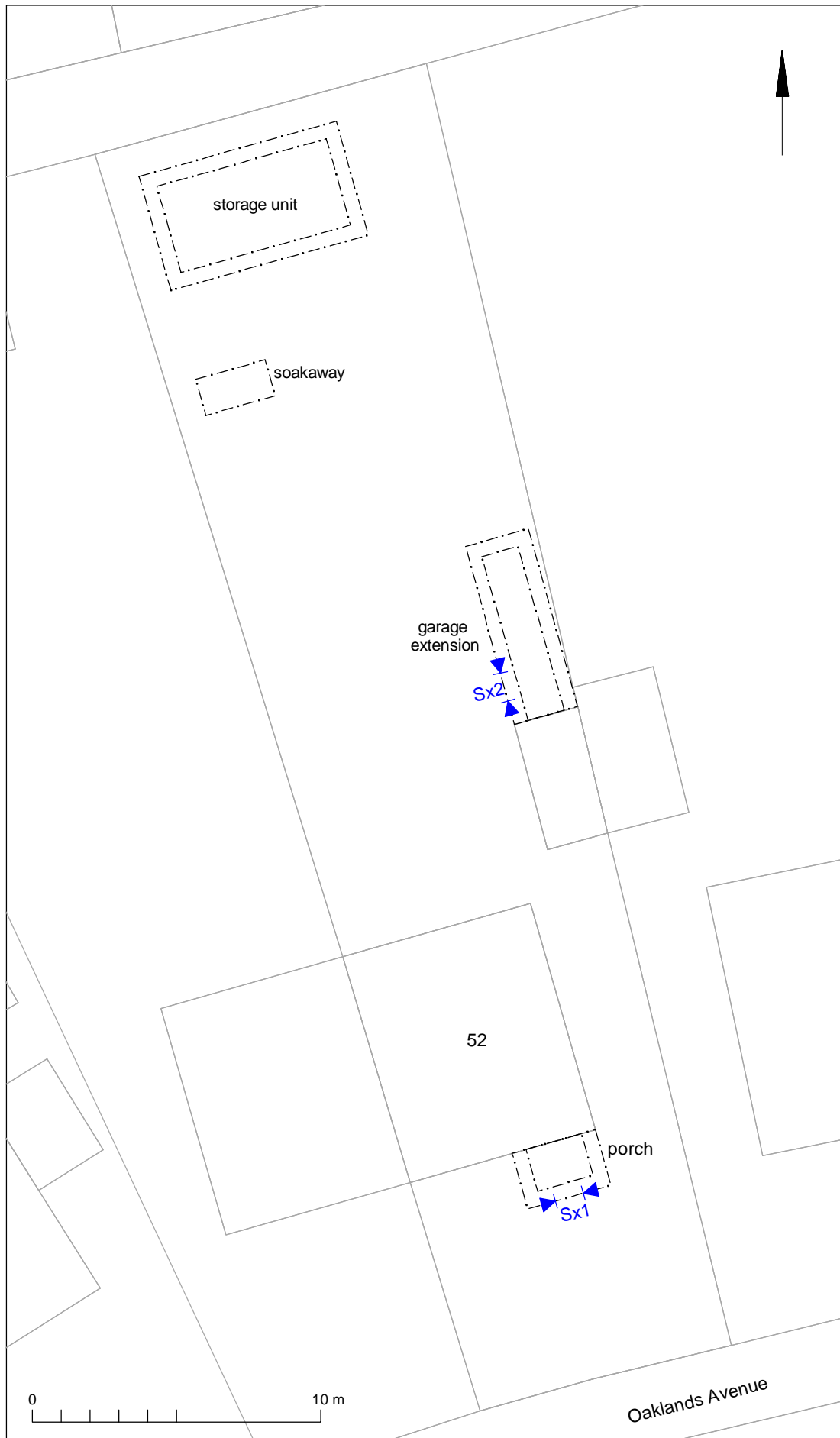


Fig 2 Results.

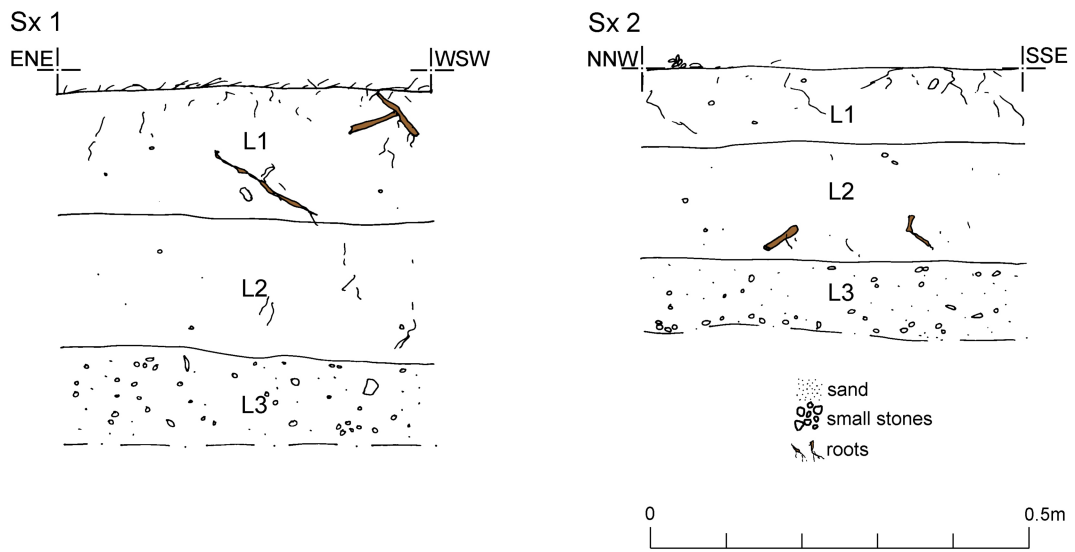


Fig 3 Representative sections.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for continuous archaeological recording at  
52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex,  
CO3 9ES.**

**NGR:** TL 96337 24065 (centre)

**Planning references:** 180926

**Commissioned by and on behalf of:** Ian Denny

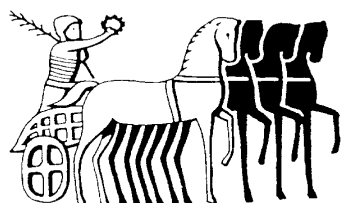
**Curating museum:** Colchester  
**Museum accession code:** tbc

**CHER number:** ECC4307  
**CAT project code:** 2019/02j  
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-343579

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 25.02.2019



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 3.5km southwest of the main centre of historic Colchester, at 52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9ES (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 96337 24065.

## Proposed work

The development involves the construction of a new entrance porch, car port, garage/workshop extension and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies adjacent to the projected line of a palisaded earthwork (MCC7085). The Colchester dykes and earthworks are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11* (CAR 11), by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).



**Map 1:** Extract of the general map of Colchester showing the locations of earthworks and excavations discussed in CAR11 (Fig 6.1), current site is labelled blue.

The site is located to the southwestern end of the palisaded earthwork (MCC7085), which runs SE-NW, before it meets in a junction between Gyrmes dyke (MCC7464-5) running N-S and the Laver ditch, running NW-SE (MCC1054). Gyrmes dyke is the outermost, longest and latest of all the dykes on the western side of the town. The current site is located adjacent to

an area named in CAR 11 as Grymes Dyke Middle. Excavation work between 1946-1958 (labelled 19 on map 1 above) revealed there was an entrance through Grymes Dyke and looked at the relationship between Grymes Dyke, the palisaded earthwork and the Laver ditch (for full discussion see CAR 11 p27-29, 59-61 and 109).

Other features noted in the area include Late Iron Age to Roman ditches recorded along the road (MCC8080 and 8087). Human bone was found during the erection of a radio aerial in 1963 (MCC7634) and CAT inspected a sudden hole which appeared in the rear of 64 Oaklands Avenue in 1988 and recorded a 4.6m deep vertical shaft, thought to be a well of unknown date (97/10c, CAT report 1000).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2018 (application No.180926) proposing the *erection of entrance porch, car port, and garage/workshop extension*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site. As groundworks have already commenced, prior to an approved WSI, the monitoring will be limited to recording sections of open foundations, searching the spoil heap and monitoring any outstanding groundworks and services.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.



At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork alongside a project or site code from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

## **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

## **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If

circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Matthew Loughton (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

## **Results**

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).

- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

### Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

### Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

### References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997) by H Brooks
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Clovelly, Mill Lane, Birch, COO 0NH</i> . By J Tipper
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

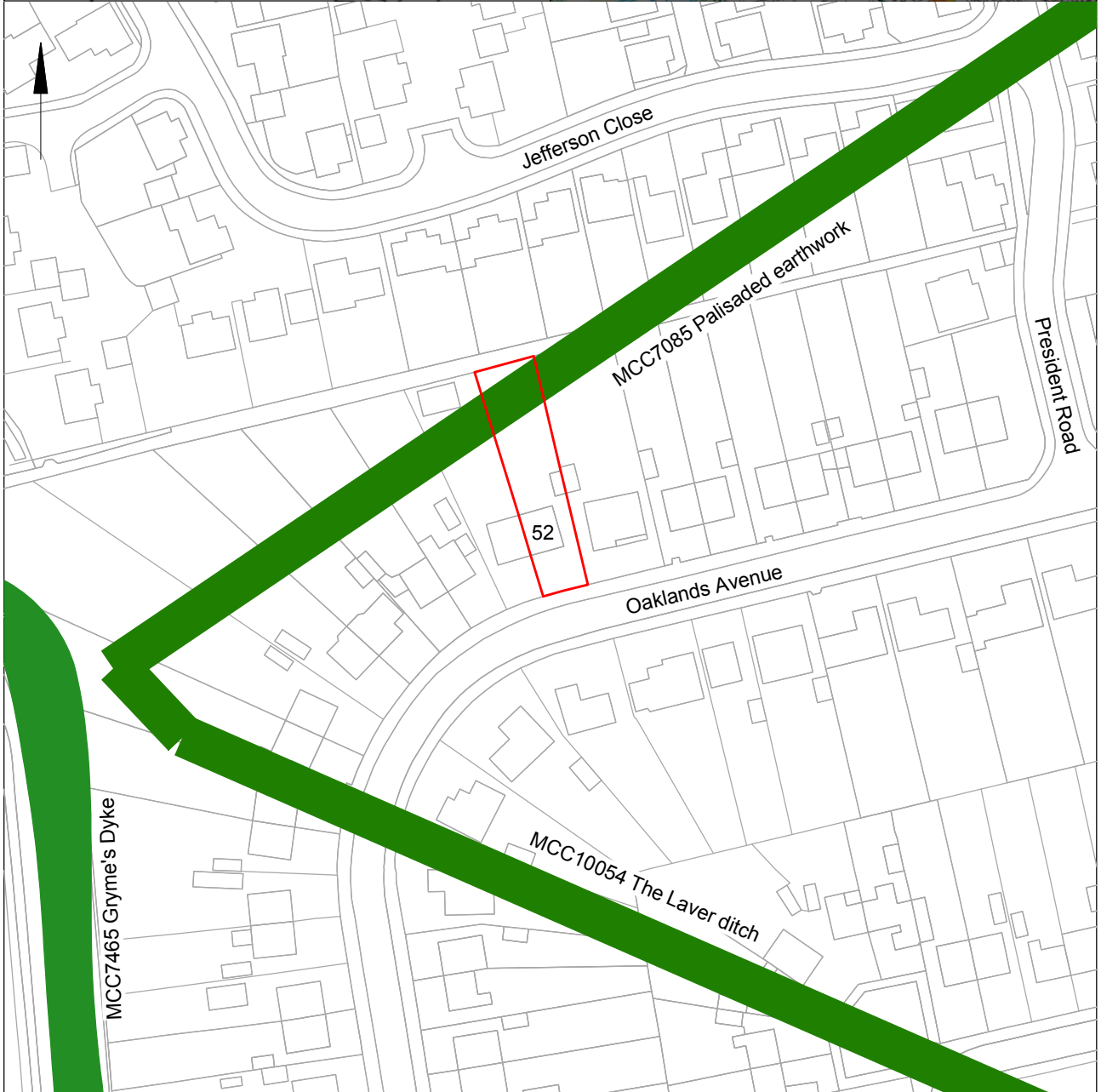
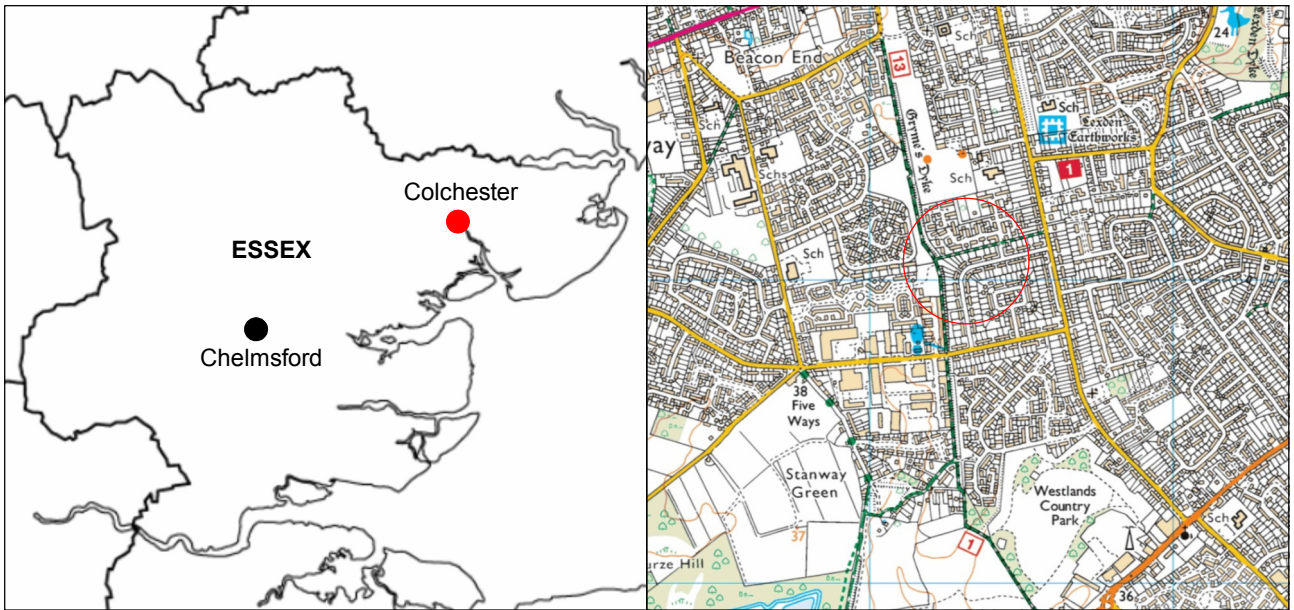
English Heritage	2006	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.





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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-343579**

### Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological recording at 52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9ES.
Short description of the project	Recording of groundworks for new entrance porch, car port and garage/workshop extension. The condition was added due to the site proximity to Romano-British dykes. A palisaded earthwork was projected to cross the garden of the property. The foundation trenches had all been excavated and prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring. No significant archaeological features were encountered, and there were no finds.
Project dates	Start: 22-02-2019 End: 22-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/02j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4307 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	180926 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 9ES
Study area	475 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 96337 24065 51.880008335702 0.852888918404 51 52 48 N 000 51 10 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator Emma Holloway

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Robin Mathieson

Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Name of sponsor/funding body Ian Denny

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4307

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4307

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological recording at 52 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9ES

Author(s)/Editor(s) Holloway, E.

Other bibliographic details Colchester Archaeological Report number 1388

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